



## **OP 79.05: LABORATORY ANIMAL WELFARE**

### **PURPOSE**

The research focus of Mississippi State University is diverse, ranging from production agriculture to biomedical research interests. Considering this diversity, Mississippi State University is committed to ensuring all animals used in teaching and research receive humane care and use while maintaining the flexibility required to serve the needs of industry partners. The use of animals is essential to several aspects of teaching and research, and must be considered a privilege, not a right, of the academic and scientific communities. This policy is to ensure that animal care and use in research and teaching at Mississippi State University are in compliance with local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and policies regarding animal welfare.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Animal:** any live animal in the sub-phylum vertebrata with the following exceptions:

- 1) embryos and neonates prior to hatching or weaning;
- 2) larval stages of development;
- 3) as the IACUC deems appropriate (must be documented in writing, signed by the chair).

**Research:** any use of animals (including post-partum pre-weaned mammals) whose purpose is to answer a scientific question.

**Teaching:** any Mississippi State University sanctioned endeavor in a classroom, laboratory, or field that provides an educational experience.

### **SCOPE**

Client owned animals receiving clinical care are not included in this policy. Additionally, animals involved with judging and demonstrations are exempted from this policy.

### **INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY**

The institutional official (IO) is identified as the Vice President for Research and Economic Development and has authority over the use of regulated animals. In accordance with Federal regulations, the IO established an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC – a standing committee reporting to the IO) with authority to ensure the humane care and use of animals in research and teaching. To facilitate the role of the IACUC and research scientists, the IO also established a University Laboratory Animal Veterinarian (ULAV). The responsibility of

the ULAV is to serve as a university-wide resource that provides or oversees veterinary care, and technical and scientific support for Mississippi State University programs using animals in research and teaching.

The ULAV is advised by the IACUC. The IACUC is charged with:

- 1) establishing and reviewing compliance with standards and procedures relating to animal welfare of animals used in research and teaching;
- 2) advising individuals and agencies dealing with such animals.

### **POLICY**

Investigators using animals for research or teaching must receive approval from the IACUC prior to initiating any animal use.

### **PROCEDURES**

1. The IACUC will review all proposed use of vertebrate animals (as defined before in this document);
2. Inspect all accredited and regulated animal facilities at least once every 6 months. Other animal facilities will be inspected on a regular basis. Any deficiencies or issues discovered within Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES) facilities during inspections will be communicated to the Director of MAFES, and the Vice President for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine;
3. Provide written reports about the animal program to the IO semi-annually, and when a concern regarding compliance arises.

### **REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed by the Vice President for Research & Economic Development and the Vice President for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine at least every four years.

**This policy has been superseded**

**Reviewed by:**

/s/ David R. Shaw  
Vice President for Research and  
Economic Development

10/19/2015  
Date

/s/ Gregory A. Bohach  
Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry and  
Veterinary Medicine

09/28/2015  
Date

/s/ Timothy N. Chamblee  
Assistant Vice President and Director  
Institutional Research and Effectiveness

10/08/2015  
Date

/s/ Joan Lucas  
General Counsel

10/14/2015  
Date

**APPROVED:**

/s/ Mark Keenum  
President

10/26/2015  
Date

**This policy has been superseded**